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Subject: Anti-American Statements of a VdU Member to the Nationale Liga Report No: EAV-1346
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Place Acquired: Austria, Vienna Date Acquired: 4 February 1954
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Source: An Austrian Government employee (B) from official reports.

1. The Nationale Liga held a meeting in Vienna on 29 January 1954. Some 80 persons attended. The guest speaker was a League of Independents (VdU) city council member from Linz, Alois Kuedisser. He attempted to explain the present split in the VdU by placing all the blame on its leaders, Dr. Herbert Kraus and Viktor Leisner, whom he described as "dollar lackeys" of the Americans. Kuedisser stated that Kraus had turned over a leader of the (nazi-era) Labor Service to the Americans at pistol point. According to Kuedisser, only after these two leaders are expelled could the various splinter groups unite once more and form a national ring which would be steadfast in its opposition to the existing system. Why is it, Kuedisser asked, that it is always the Communist Party which takes up the opposition and steps forward with warnings and proposals. Why isn't it the nationalist camp which acts as an effective opposition?
2. Kuedisser took the government to task for neglecting the unemployment problems, housing, health, and its handling of ERP money. At one point he called former Foreign Minister Karl Gruber a "lackey from overseas" who carried on cultural rubbish with Austrians in America. In conclusion, Kuedisser urged all those present to unite in a national ring of rightist organizations.
3. Dr. Adolf Slavik, founder of the Nationale Liga, was the next speaker. He also called for a new opposition, a non-Marxist opposition, to combat the corruption-ridden political parties. In the course of his speech he lambasted just about every leading government figure and government program. He maintained that ERP funds went only to persons who had the right connections, but that the small farmers and businessmen were left out in the cold. He predicted that the forthcoming liberalization of Austrian tariffs would inevitably lead to increased unemployment. He complained that Austria was not permitted to trade with the East. For example, he cited the Heine firm of Vienna which had received an order to deliver 40 lathes to China, but because the export license was not approved, a number of workers had to be dismissed. In short, he declared, under the cover name of democracy there rules a gangster dictatorship characterized by greed and corruption.

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4. Referring to the Foreign Ministers' conference in Berlin, Slavik revealed to his listeners that Chancellor Adenauer had declared that any agreement of the victors would surely be at the expense of Germany. Also, the Austrian government recently sent a delegation to Bonn with the planned intention of raising the impression that a new Anschluss was in the making. The government thereby hoped to torpedo the State Treaty. Dr. Slavik reasoned that a union now with the Adenauer government would be nothing short of bringing Austria into the American colonial system. He thought that only after East and West Germany are united could Austria enter into talks with Germany about such a relationship.

Field Comment. The Nationale Liga is a communist-front organization for ex-nazis. The League of Independents, also a right wing party appealing to ex-nazis, is not a communist front and does not normally cooperate with the Nationale Liga.

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